

7/2/76
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2 July 1976

LIST OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED DEATHS IN ARGENTINA

BETWEEN 3 JANUARY AND 3 JUNE 1976

of deaths which occurred during the period 3 January to 3 June 1976, compiled by journalists and other reliable sources. Only information which they were able to corroborate was included in this list (eye-witness accounts or reports from relatives of the victims). The total of 493 deaths is, unfortunately, not a true reflection of the extent of political violence in Argentina over the past few months. Our sources have suggested that this figure (493) only represents 30% of the actual number of deaths for this period.

It has not been possible to show clearly in every case who was responsible for the deaths.

Period 3 January to 24 March (Date of Coup)

| GROUP RESPONSIBLE | # OF DEATHS |
|----------------------|-------------|
| (i) ARMY/POLICE..... | 60 |
| (ii) GUERRILLAS..... | 40 |
| (iii) OTHERS..... | 67 |
| TOTAL | 167 |

Period 24 March to 3 June 1976

| GROUP RESPONSIBLE | # OF DEATHS |
|-------------------|-------------|
| ARMY..... | 135 |
| GUERRILLAS..... | 59 |
| OTHERS..... | 132 |
| TOTAL | 326 |

Category (iii) - OTHERS, is the largest, and the group most implicated with these deaths, is the Argentinian Anti-Communist Alliance (AAA), although several other extremist rightwing groups operate along similar lines. As a general rule, victims of leftwing assassinations are identified as they have had some government or business position, whereas victims of rightwing terrorism are frequently not identified.

Those most vulnerable to rightwing attacks are Latin American refugees, lawyers, trade unionists, students and relatives of guerrillas. Sometimes, families of these victims do not claim the bodies for fear of further reprisals. Some of the Latin American refugees have entered Argentina illegally and have no "official" identity, so their disappearance can pass almost unnoticed. Amnesty International is disquieted by the large number of people allegedly killed while trying to escape, or in gun battles with the police and army. Reliable sources indicate that there is evidence to suggest that some have been summarily executed.

There seems little doubt that rightwing terrorists have considerable support from sectors of the security forces, and that they enjoy remarkable immunity from police action. The possible reason for this is that these sectors are convinced that Argentina is waging a war against subversion.

Finally, whilst such terrorist groups are seemingly tolerated, the honest intentions of the Argentinian government to "ensure internal order, social peace and absolute respect for human rights and dignities" (declaration by the Military Junta of the Argentine Republic, 24 March 1976) must be seriously questioned.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

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